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TURKS & CAICOS NEWS

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Barbara Johnson, Miss Turks & Caicos, pushes the switch to turn on lights of the Christmas tree at last Wednesday's tree lighting ceremony (Story; page 29)

NATIONAL AIRLINE HAS BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

TCNA prepares for all-out offensive

'We're making our bid for top spot again'
— TCNA manager

Leroy James, General Manager of TCNA

IN A TIME of failing economies, when airlines all over the world are going belly-up, the national airline, TCNA, is committing millions of dollar to upgrading its fleet and expanding its service to the islands and the surrounding region.

"We believe in the Turks & Caicos Islands, and we are making our bid to regain our spot as the number one air service here," said General Manager Leroy James.

And the airline is not only talking tough to its competitors; it is putting its money where its mouth is. TCNA recently acquired a 9-seater Cessna 402 and a 50-seater Boeing DeHavilland Dash-7 for starters. And it is planning eventually to modernize its total fleet.

It is also expanding its service in the region. The airline has already resumed its Bahamas route, with scheduled services to Nassau and Freeport, and it has plans of starting services to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic early next year.

Presently the airline has service to Haiti, Puerta Plata and Santo Domingo, but it is planning to fly into Santiago in February to link with LIAT, the Caribbean airline

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NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL PASSED

THREE MAJOR pieces of legislation were passed into law when the Legislative Council met in the capital island last Tuesday. They were: The Customs (Amendment) Bill 1991, the National Insurance Bill 1991 and the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill 1991.

First reading of the Bills went smoothly with the newly sworn-in Acting Financial Secretary, Mr. Coalbrooke presenting the Customs (Amendment) Bill 1991.

The National Insurance Bill 1991 was presented by the Hon. Michael Misick, Minister for Communications and Transportation, with responsibility for National Social Security.

Chief Minister Washington Misick, Minister for Tourism and Development presented the first reading of the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill 1991.

The first Speaker addressing the Customs (Amendment) Bill was the Member to Salt Cay and Grand Turk South, the Hon. Leon

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Disgruntled taxi drivers complain that bus operators are putting them out of business. From left to right: Nelson Musgrove, Gloria Symonette, Alice Stubbs, Lew Clare

Taxi business hurt by bus operators

TAXI drivers in Provo are worried that their business is being overrun by the busses allowed to transport people to and from the airport and between the hotels and casino on the island.

"It seems if there is a conspiracy between the Government, the bus operators and some of the hotels on the island to eliminate the taxis in favour of a certain transportation company", the cabbies are complaining.

Taxi drivers Nelson Musgrove, Lew Clare, Gloria Symonette and Alice Stubbs came to the office of the Turks & Caicos News to lodge their complaint, saying they do not know who to turn to for help.

The taxi drivers, all members of the Provo Taxi Association, said they thought they had made some progress in their lost meeting with the Chief Minister on October 24, when members of Government met with the drivers

Continued on page 23

Constitution to be reviewed

A CONSTITUTIONAL Commissioner is being sent out by the British Government early in the new year to review the present Constitution of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

According to a press release from Government House, Mr. Walter Wallace, Advisor on Dependent Territories in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will be arriving in the islands the latter part of January to meet with the public in this regard.

The release said: "In response to a request from the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has appointed a Constitutional Commissioner "to review and report on the working of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 1988, and related matters".

"The Commissioner is Mr. Walter Wallace, CVO, CBE, DSC, Adviser on Dependent Territories in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Mr. Wallace is a former Governor of the British Virgin Islands and has conducted major

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National Insurance Bill passed by LegCo

• *Continued from page 1*

Wilson, Mr. Wilson was interrupted several times at the beginning of his address by Members of Government accusing him of not addressing the relevant Bill.

Mr. Wilson described the Bill as creating total confusion and having no regard for the people's view. In fact, MLC Wilson said that our people were totally ignored.

He went on to say that the Customs Bill was only brought before the House some 4 months ago and here we are again with what, Mr. Wilson termed "Mickey Mouse" amendments.

At this point Attorney General Glenn Gatland rose to clarify matters stating that perhaps the member for Salt Cay was somehow confusing the Amendment Bill with the Customs Tariff (General) Order 1991 which was to be dealt with under the Subsidiary Legislation made since the last Meeting.

Honorable Derek Taylor, new leader of the Peoples Democratic Movement and Leader of the Opposition said.the Customs (Amendment) Bill 1991, "is before its time, a time when the economy is at its lowest and people are struggling to survive financially would only be an added burden."

Mr. Taylor suggested an office of Trade be set up to investigate and give advice on the subject. Hon. Taylor urged the Government to re-think the Bill and set aside this piece of Legislation.

Chief Minister Misick on standing, congratulated the new leader of the Opposition on his appointment and reminded him that it was his Government that made the agreement with UNDP for the 'ASYCUDA' system. Mr. Misick pointed out that the Bill had no negative effects on the electorate particularly the electorate of Overback and West Road, Grand Turk North.

The appointed member of the Opposition, Mr. Lewis Astwood seemingly had a difficult time understanding that he could not and had no legal right to object to the reading of the Bill. He has, however, full right to vote against the Bill.

Hon. Wendal Swann then rose to clarify the matter. Mr. Swann informed the legislature that previous Standing Orders provided for Members to voice their objections to the third reading of the Bill which then deferred the reading of the Bill automatically for at least 24 hours. Readings continued and the Bill.

Minister for Communications and Transportation started on a light note stating that the introduction of the National Insurance Bill would change the social scene of the TCI completely. Mr. Misick said that the Bill would benefit the old and young alike.

The Minister went on to say that there is a crying need for the introduction of such a scheme and he took time to travel to all the Islands for public meetings to inform his people of its importance. He noted that a "Technical Expert from the United Nations has been resident here since February 1991 assisting with the programme."

The Minister responsible for National Insurance said that the Fund will be financially autonomous and administered by a Board comprising seven Members. Mr. Misick strongly recommended the passage of the Bill which he said will allow people in these islands to 'catch-up' with the financial and social activities being experienced elsewhere.

After members made their contributions to the Bill, the house sat in Committee. During this stage, concern focussed on the fact that the Board will be chosen or appointed by the Minister. The Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. Austin Robinson suggested that the Board be appointed by His Excellency the Governor in Council.

Following the half-hour adjournment, members continued debate on the National Insurance Bill 1991 in Committee.

Mr. Robinson seemed to wear his finance cap, questioning many aspects with financial implications with particular reference to public funds. "If the Government is expected to share in the deficits, then the Government should share in the profits as well", the Acting Chief Secretary said.

On the question of proper audit control, the Chief Minister said he expects that a certified Audit Firm would be obtained. At a later stage, however, the Scheme could employ its own Auditor.

The Minister responsible for the Scheme Said that it is the intention of the Ministry to hire a private firm of Auditors to ensure total financial control.

The Chief Minister further suggested that the word 'Accountant' be carefully defined in the Ordinance specifically with reference to Section 46 as someone qualified and approved for this purpose by the Financial Secretary. Other sections of the Bill, members thought coincided with the Employee Compensation Bill of 1985. The repealing of the previous Bill will be done when the National Insurance Bill 1991 is enforced. The National Insurance Bill 1991 was passed by the Legislature.

Chief Minister, Mr. C. Washington Misick, in presenting the third Bill of the day, explained that the purpose of the Bill was to repeal the public Holiday known as JAGS McCartney Memorial Day celebrated on June 6. This holiday will be replaced by a day known as National Heroes observed on the last Monday in May.

Chief Minister Misick hastened to say that this will in no way detract from the honour bestowed on the late McCartney. In fact, Mr. Misick said, "the first Chief Minister of the the Turks and Caicos Islands will be recognized and recorded in the Bill as TCI's First National Hero".

Hon. Leon Wilson, seemingly very involved in the day's proceedings, expressed his displeasure and disappointment at the removal of the McCartney Holiday when there are others that could have been changed or a new holiday inserted.

Hon. Michael Misick supported the Chief Minister's comments and told Members that each contributor to history and betterment for our people could not be honoured with a Public Holiday, but this new holiday would allow for all our great men and women to be included.

A solemn, almost tearful Appointed Member Astwood referred to the TCI as "celebrating and honouring Columbus Day and throwing aside our very own McCartney." Who Mr. Astwood said, "made his contribution to his people and country and died so". He went on to say that the late McCartney is no longer a threat to the Chief Minister and should not be disrespected in this manner". Mr. Astwood suggested that this matter be dealt with in the form of a referendum.

The Hon. Robert Hall, Minister for Health and Education, commented that he had the pleasure of living in a country which honours their citizens. He drew reference to the great United States, pointing out that of all the great men and women they recognize, they are not referred to individually. There is for instance --Presidents Day-- which includes all Presidents.

Minister Hall made mention of the way in which the former holi-

• *Continued on page 9*

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TCNA prepares to launch all-out offensive

• *Continued from page 1*

Native stewardess Paula Brooks, formerly with TWA Airlines, has returned home to join TCNA

which operates daily flights between San Juan and Santiago.

"We want to open up other gateways for visitors to the Turks and Caicos Islands, James told the *Turks & Caicos News*.

Answering questions about the airline's tussle with Government and previous plans by its owner to dispose of it, James said TCNA is not up for sale at the moment, and the arbitration court has not yet made a ruling in its dispute with Government. But, notwithstanding the likelihood of an adverse court decision, the airline is confident in its plans for the islands.

TCNA 1983 Ltd. was established after Texas millionaire Tommy Strausberger bought the airline from the Turks & Caicos Government. From inception the airline had been plagued by problems. And its sale Tommy Strausberger did not make for smoother flying. Faced with the usual problems of staff, management and faulty equipment, TCNA was ground d for four months last year by Civ Aviation Department. Then General Manager Leroy James quit suddenly. Then there was the rumour that the airline was up for sale.

But in Au ust of this year James returned to TCNA, and he is now making plans to reorganise the company and spruce up its sagging image. "I was able to convince the owner that in spite of our friction with Government that the airline must continue to operate as an airline. And if it is to operate that way then it must continue to upgrade its service to the community," James said. "I feel that doing that will put us in a stronger bargaining position."

James said his goal is to eventually operate a turbine service in the islands. He said in this age of the airline industry, its a big change for the average tourist who jumps off a 727 in the Dominican Republic or Nassau to crawl into a 9-seater airplane to come to the Turks & Caicos. "We must be able to provide a service comparable to any other destination, if we are to attract people here."

TCNA's new DeHavilland Dash-7, parked outside hangar in Grand Turk

Spacious interior of TCNA's new aircraft is capable of accomodating up to 50 passengers

With its introduction of the Dash-7 to its fleet, TCNA can now compete with Bahamasair, which flies a similar aircraft to the islands. The aircraft is spacious and comfortable, with bathroom facilities and fully airconditioned. It also provides inflight services, with a fully trained stewardess on board.

"Our prime industry here is tourism," James says. "And transportation plays a very important role." He said TCNA are committing themselves to providing the kind of service they believe the islands deserve, but it will take the people of the islands to make their efforts successful. "If they give us their support, we shall succeed," he said.

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Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL

Star of Wonder

May the light of His love guide you through the season of love, laughter and warmth, as you recall the message of the manger and renew your faith in His word. The gift of your friendship and trust is our most prized possession. We wish all of you a very merry Christmas.

from the Editor and staff

OPINION/LETTERS

Wise men still seek Him

CHRISTMAS MEANS different things to different people. However, when the various and diverse ways of celebrating this festive and joyous occasion are taken together it all boils down to the recognition of the simple fact that nearly 2,000 years ago in the small and insignificant Judean Village of Bethlehem a very unusual boy was born.

He was the child of Promise born in the Land of Promise and wise men still seek Him. The prophet Isaiah looking forward with a prophetic eye to this glorious event, prophesied that a virgin would indeed bring forth a son and His name would be called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us". Isaiah further likened this child to "a tender plant" and "a root out of a dry ground" and said that he would, be "despised and rejected, a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief" and the judgement that sinful mankind so rightly deserve would eventually fall upon Him. Yes, this was a very unusual child indeed. The angels, with great excitement, announced His arrival and even the stars of heaven twinkled with joy and delight at his birth.

None born of woman has affected the destiny of mankind as has Mary's little boy. This event introduced a new Epoch in God's dealing with man; the course of history was forever altered and nothing would ever be the same again.

Jesus was born in the ghetto; His mother just happened to live on the wrong side of town and would have easily qualified for welfare. "He who was rich became poor so that through His poverty we may become rich. Of this very fact wrote the apostle John, declaring that: "Before anything else existed there was Christ with Gold. He has always been alive and is Himself God. He created everything and there is nothing in existence that He didn't make. "Saint John further testified that: 'Christ was alive when the world began, yet I myself have seen Him with my own eyes and listened to Him speak. I have touched Him with my own hands and testify that his Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Strange indeed are the ways of God: Who on earth would have guessed that little baby boy, so innocent and pure, was at once the Saviour of the world and the Judge of all the earth. We are compelled to humbly bow the knee and declare with the great apostle Paul. "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God, How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding ours!"

So we see that this glorious event was never really intended as a time of celebration for the drunkards and gluttons, rather it is a sacred reminder of that time so very long ago when the eternal destiny of the human race was bound up with the life of a little child. This love child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, is God's christmas gift to mankind. This child who came to be man's saviour will one day be man's judge. You will either receive Him as Saviour and Lord and enter with great joy "that place that He has gone to prepare for those that love Him" or you will reject Him and be cast our "into utter darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (By the way, if you are ever tempted to doubt the reality of hell just stop and ask yourself whether an all-wise and all-knowing God would have sent His only son into the world to die such a cruel death on the cross to save us from something that doesn't exist. When you deny the existence of hell you are in fact saying that God is not only a liar but that He is also a proper fool. Fact is, that there are no unbelievers in hell. Hell is certain to make a believer out of you; problem is you would believe too late, only to discover to your utter horror that the dreadful places has no exit.)

So on Christmas day as we celebrate our Saviour's birth let us endeavour to focus on the One without whom the day would have no meaning. Let us put Christ back into Christmas and the spirit of this glorious day will linger with us and bless us throughout the New Year.

Happy Holidays.

Stafford Misick

How on earth are these people chosen?

Dear Sir,

When you look around at the calibre of persons we have in top posts in Government, you are left to wonder how on earth are these people chosen to be in such positions.

For example, what method do we use to choose our permanent secretaries? We have none. People are chosen here as permanent secretaries based on how much news you can carry to the authorities, and how much you can say about others that degrades them. When you look at the present crop of permanent secretaries, you wonder how these people can ever be in such positions.

Two persons who are permanent secretaries previously worked, or were members of the Disaster Preparedness Committee. This committee consists of people who are always drunk, and who can't even find their own islands on the map, yet they are supposed to track hurricanes coming our way, and prepare us for them. These people are a disaster, and that is why the departments they are in charge of are also disasters.

How can someone from a committee on disaster preparedness become the holder of a top job? There is a Government that in order to become a head of department that you have to come up through the ropes. This happened when people who entered Government service were not qualified. In other countries, people with qualifications are immediately placed in top managerial positions. In the Turks & Caicos, it is a crime to be qualified. None of our permanent secretaries has a degree, and both their personal secretaries and administrative officers are more qualified than their bosses.

So how are these people chosen for top posts? Other countries give tests to move from grade to grade, but here you are promoted if someone likes you, or if you are a "yes" person, or someone might think that you have been in a certain post for a period of time, and you need to move on. There is no assessment of your work in terms of its quality. This has been so for ages, and it remains so. Those in the Government with influence are totally against people with qualifications, and they gang up to keep qualified people down. How can an organisation function with dunces at the head of things. You must have your qualified people to advance the work of the organisation, and who will help it to change for the better.

In our brother Caribbean countries, all heads of departments in Government have college degrees. When peoples here go to meetings and meet these people, they are lost. We don't insist on quality in our Government. And the politicians who should set example are just as bad the administrators in Government. Yet we call on the schools to perform better. How can the schools do better, when the top leaders and administrators do not, and cannot take the lead. Students don't see the need to work hard, because when they look around and see the quality of people in Government generally, they tell themselves if so and so can be a head of department after a few years without any qualifications, why should we hurt our heads.

Our 'dunciest' people are our politicians, and our heads of departments compete hard with them for the trophy. When you have unqualified people in Government, bad decisions are made, with bad results for the country and people. In other countries if a politician is not too bright, he or she is given a permanent secretary with the necessary qualifications. Here the blind lead the blind.

There seems to be hope for the country, since the duncie people in positions gang up to keep the intelligent ones out. Also, when duncie people retire, they are given positions again, where they continue to influence Government, by continuing to bring duncie people like themselves in Government to make decisions for the country.

Where there is no vision the people perish. It seems that we as a people will continue to perish under the yoke of unqualified people, unless the youth of the country are determined to qualify themselves, and over the top positions in the country, to try and put it on its feet. It is only in this way that we will gain the respect we deserve.

Gus Outten.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where is the progress through partnership?

Dear Editor

Thank you for allowing me this space in your paper.

Less than one year ago the then Leader of the people's Democratic Movement announced that the current world recession was affecting our economy. Members of the Opposition reacted by saying the world economy does not affect us here in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Opposition of the People's Democratic Movement carefully pointed out that the only problem we had in the Turk's and Caicos Islands was a Government who did not know how to manage the affairs of the country.

On April 3, 1991 the people of these beautiful Islands, were given the opportunity once again to elect a Government according to their faith. It can be argued that faith had nothing to do with the outcome of the elections.

However, that's water under the bridge. On the campaign trail prior to the elections there were great promises of development being right around the corner", if the PNP were to win the elections. And since the PNP was elected there has been big talk about some sixty-odd million dollars being allocated to the Turks and Caicos Islands as a result of an extensive tour by one of our Ministers. There is also talk about Condos in Grand Turk and Major development for South Caicos. But as the old saying goes, "talk is cheap". And as another saying goes: "I am from Missouri, the show-me State." I think you get the picture.

The same people who criticized the PDM Government and accused them of not knowing how to manage the affairs of the country, are the same ones who are silent about the fact that more than half of Government offices phones are off, Because of non-payment of bills.

What I want to know is, how can you develop a nation without Communication. If I were an expatriate looking at the possibilities of closing business here, I would have to think twice about it, because it would be difficult for me to put confidence in a Government who could not even keep their phone on.

The tourist business is our bread and butter. How could you convince a person to return to your Islands if on their first visit they decided they would like to stay an extra week, but when they called your Immigration Department to make an appointment to get the extension they require, the voice on the other end says, "Sorry this number has been disconnected."

Now, I know the first reaction to my comment, by many PNP'S is that the PDM left the country in a mess. But even if that was the case, (and I am sure many of you know better), The question is, Where are the emergency funds that we were sure to get from Her Majesty's Government once the PNP won the elections?

And if the Ministers cannot obtain the so-called emergency Funds that they boasted about during campaign, then I suggest that they do the same thing they were asking the former Ministers to do. That is, take a cut in salary and reduce their travel abroad. Use the money which will be saved on salary cuts and travel expenses, to turn on the phones and keep them on.

You don't need to attend a strategic review seminar to understand that simple arithmetic. I believe many of you would agree with me in saying the present situation is a national disgrace.

One of the things that concerns me most with the PNP Government is their insensitivity towards the indigenous people of the nation. The following facts support this statement: The closing of schools in North and Middle Caicos, the Fishermen issue in Provo, CIF Custom duties. National insurance, and the list goes on.

Now, I am not suggesting that some of the above matters do not need looking into, especially national insurance. I am merely pointing out that all of the above issues were forced down our peoples' throats, whether they wanted it or not. In a population that is limited as ours I think the right approach would be to give our people reasonable time to prepare themselves for any changes in Government Policies. Changes that the PNP Government was expected to make because of their campaign promises on the issues that they have enforced. Such as the custom tariff.

I was convinced that once PNP had won the Government the temporary increase in custom duties which was introduced by the PDM would be lifted, but instead of reducing the rates the PNP Government is increasing custom duties by imposing the CIF System, a system which they themselves do not understand.

Provo is clearly the bread basket of the Turks and Caicos Islands, one would expect the Government to do every thing in its power to stabilise the growth of this Island. But instead, many businesses are closing down, even their own.

Addressing Gus Outten's statement in the December 16, issue of the Turks and Caicos News: I will remind Gus that PNP is in Government today because the men he refer to the "black power group" had the guts to stand up to the oppressors. And as far as Derek's education is concerned, his background is equal or surpasses many of those who are now handling the country affairs.

Furthermore, common sense and honesty have always been the criteria of a good leader. The big question is, Where is the progress through partnership?

--OBSERVER

HMG sends 'congrats' on arrest/extradition of alleged drug dealer

IN REFERENCE to the recent capture and extradition of Robert Serry, the Governor received the following letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, the Hon. Mark Lennox-Boyd:

Mr. Michael Bradley
CMG QC Governor
Grand Turk

Dear Governor:

Please pass on my personal congratulations to all those involved in the capture, detention and successful extradition or Robert Serry to the United States. We now understand that his capture is judged by the American authorities to be a particularly significant victory in the international campaign against narcotics trafficking. It is gratifying that the diligence and professionalism of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police, the Customs Service and the Attorney General's Chambers should be highlighted so publicly in this way. It brings great credit to the Islands, which is well deserved.

Marx Lennox-Boyd

"THROUGH GOD I WILL MAKE THIS NEW HOME OF KHAD'S TRADING LTD. A SUCCESS"

OPENING SOON IN NORTH CAICOS

Paul Kott, President of PHMC Board of Directors

PHMC issues first public statement

The following statement was issued this week by the PHMC Board of Directors:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHMC WAS forcibly closed on December 3, 1991 by a group calling itself the Provo Citizens Committee. This group attended the business offices of a Director of PHMC and demanded the keys to the Clinic on behalf of the community. The Director declined to acknowledge this group as representing the community and advised them to proceed through representation of their concerns by their Elected Members. Persons in the group then made threats against the Director and his family and would not leave the premises, nor would they allow the Director to leave. The Director declined to surrender the keys, advising the group that the Board of PHMC had not legally authorized him to do so. After several hours, Mr. Wendal Swann, Member of Legislative Council arrived and requested the keys and the Director surrendered the keys to him. The Board of PHMC wishes to point out that this handing over of the keys to the Clinic was made under duress and does not constitute a legal act.

PHMC operates as a not-for-profit Clinic serving our community. The Board of Directors of PHMC are responsible for securing the services of volunteer medical, dental and eye care practitioners required by the Clinic and directs these volunteers and administrative staff in the operation of the Clinic. Each Member of the Board is also a volunteer, donating their time and services to the Clinic, free of charge.

Under its legal constitution, PHMCÆs Board of Directors is elected annually at a general meeting, to be representative of the community, visitors and the medical profession. The Board elected at the annual meeting this year, in the manner prescribed, was:

Albray Butterfield, Rita Dodson, Bonnie Eriksen, Hope Hamilton, Princie Harris, Paul Kott, Ed Nagel, Carlos Simons, Sam Swann.

PHMC was established and exists to serve the medical needs of all members of the community of these Islands. Accordingly, the Board authorized its Members to meet with the Citizens Committee, which was headed by Mr. Wendall Swann, Member of Legislative Council, to discuss their concerns.

The Citizens Committee raises the issue that the Board is not properly constituted. The Board is of the opinion that its election was consistent with PHMC's Articles of Association, Memorandum of Agreement and Agreement with Government.

The Citizens Committee feels that the Board is not representative of the community. The Board is of the opinion that the Citizens Committee is not representative of all of the people of these Islands and that many members of our community have been provided with only inaccurate and biased information. Every PHMC Board of Directors since PHMC's inception has been open to suggestions for improvement and has welcomed volunteers to serve in many capacities, including as Board Members. However, new board Members must be suitably qualified to undertake responsible duties as Directors and the overall composition of the Board must coincide with PHMC's agreement with Government. Nor will the Board be coerced into accepting new Members in a manner not consistent with the best interests of PHMC.

Questions have also been raised as to the legal structuring of PHMC. The Board points out that PHMC was formed 14 years ago under the then existing legislation. The combination of PHMC's Articles of Association, Memorandum of Agreement and Agreement with Government give health effect to a viable not-for-profit Clinic providing effective quality health care to the community for 14 years. The legal constitution of an organization is not determinable in public discussions, but rather such legal validity is provided by Government.

• *Continued on page 7*

'The Board is not willing to reinstate Doctor Gilbert'

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• *Continued from page 6*

The basic issue on which the Committee and the Board differs is the Committee's adamance on the reinstatement of Dr. Frank Gilbert. Dr. Gilbert was dismissed from the position of volunteer physician at PHMC by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Three Directors were authorized to carry this out by the Board. with cause given Dr. Gilbert verbally. Financial and other accommodations were offered to Dr. Gilbert in lieu of advance notice. Arrangements were made by the Board for a suitable volunteer doctor.

Dr. Gilbert's medical qualifications were not the reason for his dismissal. Rather, it was Dr. Gilbert's inability to work together effectively with other volunteer health practitioners, other staff at the Clinic and consecutive Boards of Directors. Over the past three years, PHMC has lost many volunteers and staff, as a result.

The current Board found that Dr. Gilbert ignored its directions, that visiting volunteer practitioners complained bitterly and that staff did not wish to continue to work with him. At the same time the Board found major concerns at the Clinic, including misappropriation of funds, misuse of the Clinic's customs exemption, an attempt to unlawfully dismiss a staff member and racial prejudice in form of an expressed disinterest in treating certain members of our community. The Board resolved that this could not continue and took appropriate action in dismissing two staff members.

Upon being advised of his dismissal, Dr. Gilbert threatened to make it an international incident, claiming racial prejudice and to ruin the personal reputation of each Board Member unless and until reinstated.

The Board wishes to clarify that there never was, either this year or last, any discussion concerning differing days or times for different members of the community. The Clinic is here to serve all members of the community. What the board has been discussing is the potential for making appointments available to any members of the community who might require these. The only racial prejudice expressed has been Dr. Gilbert's statements that he is not here to look after certain members of our community, who can afford to go elsewhere for treatment. That is not consistent with PHMC's policies and practices.

Having listened carefully to the Citizens Committee as members of our community, whom PHMC exists to serve along with all others seeking medical care, the Board is willing to consider thoughtful suggestions for improvement and any required restructuring. But the Board is not willing to reinstate Dr. Gilbert.

Meanwhile the Clinic is forcibly closed and patients are unable to secure any required medical records. Accordingly the Board has taken legal action to restore access by licenced medical practitioners to PHMC if they are to be subjected to any harassment, such as has been experienced by certain Board Members. Accordingly, the Board has appealed to the Minister, Hon. Robert Hall for an investigation in this matter and assistance with reopening the Clinic. The Board does this in the best interests of PHMC and the community it serves.

PHMC clinic still closed

THE PROVO Health Medical Center (PHMC) remains closed after talks between the PHMC board of directors and the Provo Citizens Committee (PCC) reached a stalemate.

However, negotiations between the two groups are still going on with a view to having to having the clinic reopened and meeting the medical needs of the community.

Meanwhile the PHMC Board of Directors have issued a statement to the public explaining their position in the conflict. The statement, appearing in this edition of the Turks & Caicos News, is the first official response from the PHMC Board since the firing of Dr. Gilbert.

Reacting to the statement, a member of the Citizens Committee said their group will be issuing a statement countering what it describes as the gross inaccuracies" and "outright lies" contained in the PHMC Board of Directors' statement.

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Constitutional review

• Continued from page 1

constitutional reviews in St. Helena and, together with Sir Frederick Smith, in the Cayman Islands.

He is no stranger to the Turks and Caicos Islands, having visited the Islands on many occasions in the last ten years, his most recent visit being in April 1990.

"Mr. Wallace plans to arrive in the Islands towards the end of January and to spend 3-4 weeks here, during which time he will hold discussions with His Excellency the Governor, Members of the Executive Council and Legislative Council, senior civil servants and others.

He will hold public meetings in Grand Turk and in the other Islands. Members of the public who wish to make written submissions — or who wish to present their views in person — should send their submission in writing or their request for an interview to the Secretary, Constitutional Commission (care of Governor's Office) no later than 22 January 1992.

National Insurance passes

• Continued from page 2

day was treated. He said that a beach picnic and a convenient politically motivated march is simply not good enough for honouring a man who has made a great contribution. Mr. Hall went on to suggest that a statue be made in the likeness of McCartney and erected in a prominent position.

Hon. Hilly Ewing, rising for the first time during the debate suggested that there was an element of petty politics involved, due to the fact that the date of the holiday, June 6, was also being changed. He said a name-change was the only matter for debate, he would support the Bill.

The Second Member for Providenciales. Hon. Wendal Swann also said that the amendment to the Public Holidays smacks of party politics. At this juncture, the Speaker asked for an explanation as to why June 6 was important.

Mr. Astwood explained that this date has some significance with McCartney and the "Junkanoo Affair".

Mr. Swann mentioned the example of the United States made by the Health and Education Minister but hastened to point out that the United States does indeed honour its first President with a Public Holiday.

The leader of the Opposition, Hon. Derek Taylor said that he was grieved at the immature behaviour of some Members of the Legislature. Mr. Taylor re-emphasized the significance of June 6 and the circumstance surrounding that date.

Hon. Albert Grant supported the Member for Providenciales saying that, if a date is going to make his people happy, then he supports the naming of National Heroes Day on June 6.

The Chief Minister in his response highlighted some of his plans for this particular holiday. Mr. Misick suggested the establishment of a committee charged with identifying persons for the naming of this honour. He also said that there are plans for a park which will have McCartney's name enshrined on a plaque giving him full honour as TCI's First National hero.

Prior to adjournment, the Speaker made mention of the appointment of the Honourable Derek Taylor as Leader of the Opposition, he is also now the Chairman of the Administration Committee.

After the proceeding of the House, members were given opportunity, as is the custom, to exchange Christmas Greetings.

Chief Minister Misick took the lead to say "thank-you" to the civil service, Colleagues, Members of the private sector and well-wishers for their help given to him and his new Government.

Ministers of Government did likewise, followed by other elected Members.

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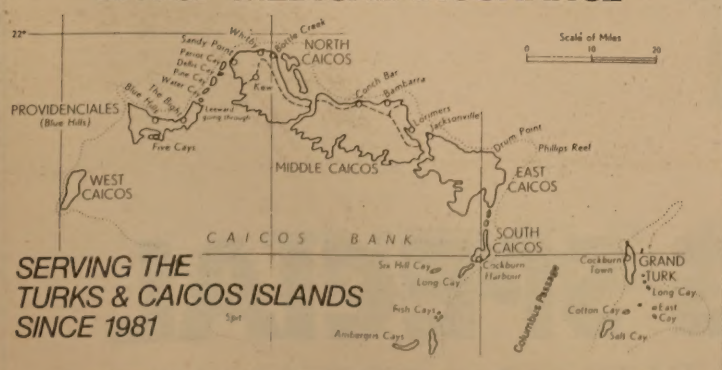

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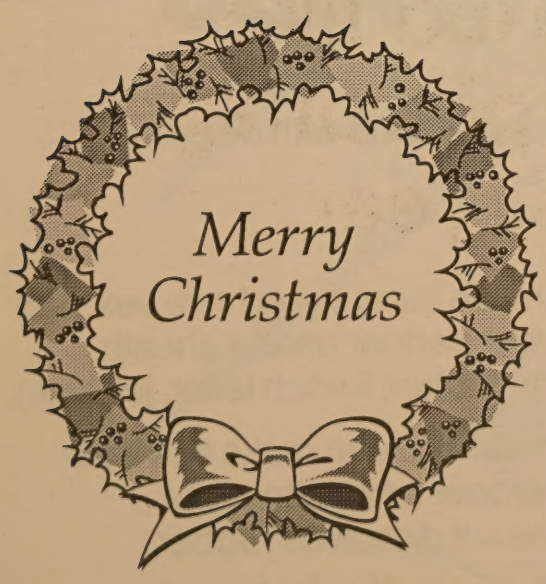

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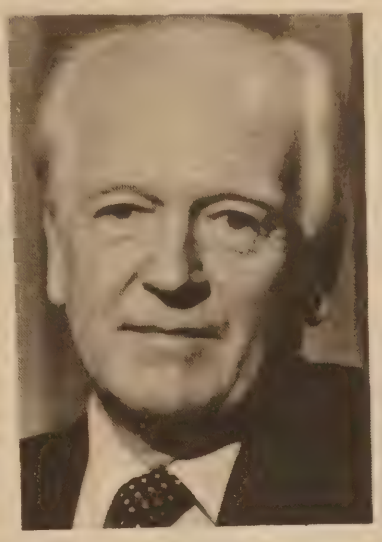

EVERY CHRISTMAS since 1987 my family and I have had the great joy in joining with all the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in celebrating Christmas, the birthday of the Redeemer, and each year I have taken the opportunity to look briefly back at the major events of the year and to look forward to the year ahead.

1991 has been an eventful one for the Territory with events as diverse as a General Election, the extradition of a major drug trafficker, the opening of our first ever casino in the Islands, and the collapse of the major airline carrier. Whilst we are a small and reasonably remote Territory events in the outside world cannot fail to impact on us, both for good and for bad.

In the early part of this year we saw the turn around in tourism which led to hopes for the best season ever in 1992. As the year ends through events outside our control we are having to struggle to take all steps possible to ensure that the expected rise in tourism will take place.

As we look forward into the New Year one anniversary that the whole world will be focusing on is the First landfall of Christopher Columbus in the New World. The last few years have produced new and exciting scientific evidence to support our belief that First Landfall took place here in Grand Turk. It is an event that for better or for worse changed the world dramatically and we should all be proud to be part of the Territory where that event took place. Everyone in the Islands should seek to ensure that our just claims receiveworld wide recognition.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are growing, changing and developing and we must all be prepared to work to support these changes in ways that are for the future benefit of the Territory. We must be prepared to accept into our community persons whose talents and labour will benefit the Territory. In turn those coming to help us should and must appreciate that the future of the Islands must be shaped by the policies and wishes of the people of the Islands.

Once again may I on behalf of my wife, Patricia, our son, Michael, and myself thank all the people of the Territory for the encouragement and support they have always given to us and for the way that we have been made welcome in the Island. I look forward to the Quincenntenial Year and hope that it will be a year of even greater prosperity and progress brought about by the continued hard work and dedication of all who live here.

May God bless each and everyone of us this Christmas and in 1992.

H.E. Michael Bradley
Governor

MY PEOPLE, my wish for you is that the season goes far beyond a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I therefore wish you strength and joy, that comes from inner peace. That peace which passes all understanding and which leaves you with a sense of well being, and a freedom which can settle and secure you in these troubled times, through the love of God.

Thanks must be given to God, for all His goodness and mercies to us and to all mankind. As we celebrate this Christmas, we should remember the great benefits that we have received from His hands, which calls us to encourage, support and stir each other up to good work. Through the grace of God and the commitment and determination of our people, we can have a better standard of living and quality of life here, in these our beautiful, Turks & Caicos Islands.

As we reflect on the past year, the crisis at home and abroad, this Christmas calls us at this time, more than ever before, to take stock of our lives and the love we have for our fellow men. Therefore, we must develop a zeal, a passion for justice, righteousness and a caring concern for pursuing and doing the things which make for holiness --whit our whole being, hearts, minds, souls and strength. May the love which brought about that first Christmas, be present in our lives, our homes, our work, our all.

As we think about the walls that are tumbling down around us and the economic recession that we are going through, Christmas calls us to have hope. Keep hope alive. Let us make sacrifices. Let us share. Let us love our neighbour as we love ourselves. And in the midst of the noise and confusion of it all. Let us know that God is with us, not just for now, but always, moving in His mysterious ways, performing His wonders, planting His footsteps in the sea and riding upon the storms, keeping His promise to men, through signs, pointing towards the Second Advent.

Here, I take the time out to thank you for love and prayers, your support and encouragement, that have kept me going. Many of you have gone and continue to go the extra mile to bring about a season of hope, prosperity and well being, especially for those who are in the sunset of their days. May God continue to be the one in whose name we minister and serve the present age. I am blessed that I have been called to the higher service of God and my country.

On behalf of my family, the Peoples' Democratic Movement, and the people of Backsalina and Salt Cay, I wish you a most blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with the presence of God.

Love Always.

Hon. Derek Taylor,
Leader of Opposition

Have a Holiday Filled with Old-Fashioned Love & Joy

The simple pleasures are still the best,
and for us that means having the
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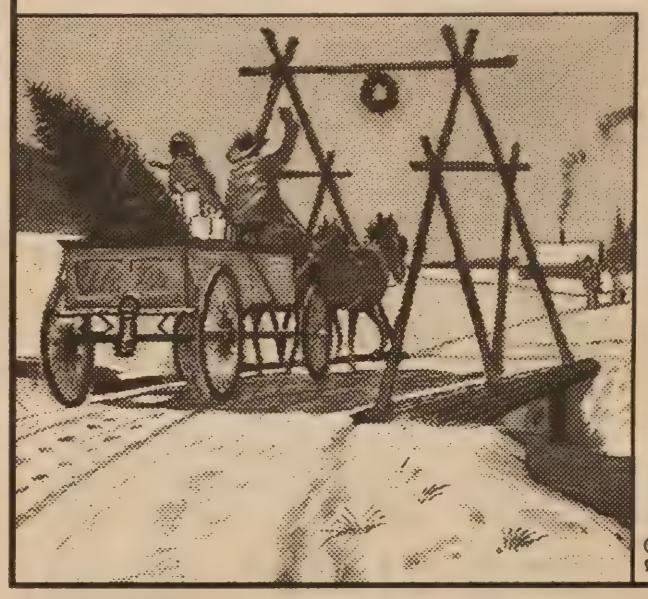
From the management and staff of



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TURKS AND CAICOS NEWS

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Christmas treats

GIFTS OF COOKIES AND CANDIES were considered appropriate for children until the mid-19th century, when toys were given. Pictured here are a variety of toys that are part of Winterthur's Yuletide tour, including balls, toy horses, and a miniature Noah's Ark. Photo courtesy The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.

Stepping back in time...

Celebrating Twelfth Night

The centerpiece of eighteenth century Twelfth Night celebrations was an elaborate cake baked with a pea in one side and a bean in the other. The woman who found the pea was designated as queen of the ball; the man who found the bean became king. They were responsible for setting the tone for the event and choosing the games which formed the evening's entertainment.

"In those days, instead of spin the bottle, they played twirl the trencher and hunt the slipper," says Violet Bayer Riegel, program coordinator, Winterthur Museum and Gardens. "The winners collected forfeits (which were often kisses) from the losers."

In some regions, after the party was over, guests selected slips of paper from a hat. The man who drew the losing slip had to host the following year's party, and the woman with the losing slip had to make the cake.

The recipe below for a traditional

- ¾ **cup almonds, blanched and chopped or cut into strips**
- ½ **cup citron**
- ½ **cup candied peel, cut into strips**

In a large bowl, cream the butter and 1 cup of the sugar until light. In a separate bowl, beat the egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored and add them to the butter-sugar mixture. In a bowl, sift the flour, mace, cinnamon and baking soda; stir in the currants, raisins, and almonds. Add the flour-and-fruit mixture to the egg-butter-sugar mixture. Combine the citron and candied peel and set aside.

Line two 12-inch round pans with waxed paper buttered on both sides. Fill each pan ⅔ full, adding layers of citron and candied peel. Cover loosely with buttered paper. Steam the cake for three hours and then bake it 1½ hours in a slow oven (300 degrees) or bake it 4 hours at 275 degrees without steaming.

Have a Very, Very Merry Christmas!

If Santa is as good to you as you've been to us, you're in for a wonderful holiday season! Thank you friends.

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—Luke 2:12

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Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

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THE PHONE WAS STILL A NOVELTY in 1884 when Thomas Nast created this pair of illustrations of a little girl calling Santa, who picks up the receiver in his toy-and-package-filled workshop. A jovial fellow with ruddy cheeks, capacious belly and white beard, Nast's Santa, who graced the pages of *Harper's Weekly* for over 20 years, was the basis for today's most familiar image of St. Nick. *SX902456*

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Merry Christmas

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A Christmas classic

FLAMING TORCH HELD HIGH, Scrooge's Third Visitor appears before him in this original drawing by artist John Leech. The design engraved from this faces page 78 in the first edition of the Charles Dickens classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*. Watercolor over pencil. Illustration courtesy: Pierpont Morgan Library. *SX902458*

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Here's To A CHRISTMAS Filled With Joy!

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From the Management and Staff
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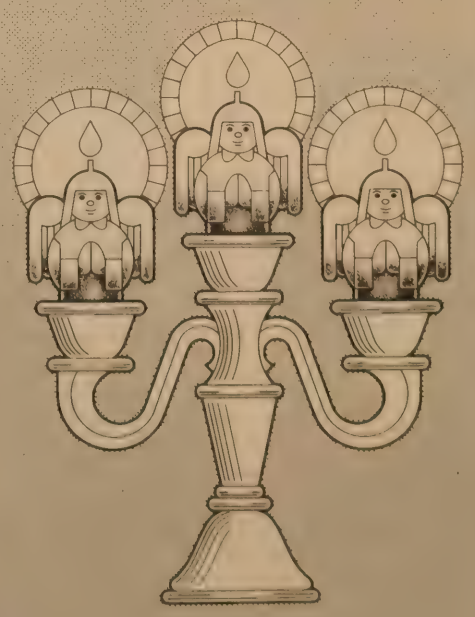

The Lights of Christmas Are Burning

It's time again to join with you in prayer and to celebrate the great gift we received this day.

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Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas

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NORTH POLE TO SOUTH, CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF JOY TO THE WORLD

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Club Med

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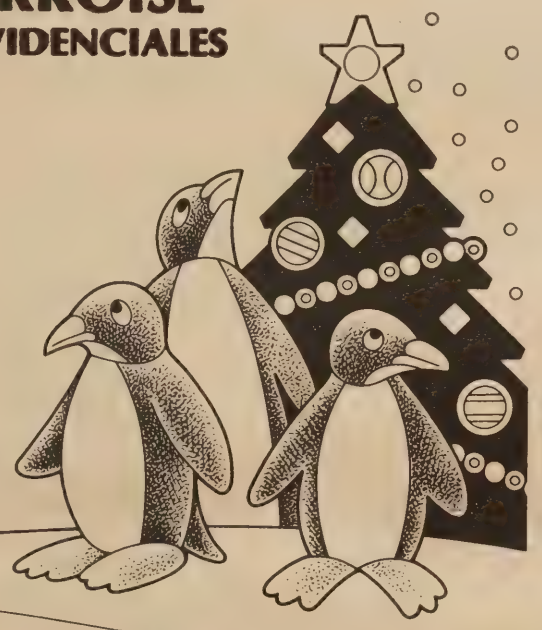

Season's Greetings!

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Silent Night

All was calm on that holy night,
The eve of a glorious morn,
A time of faith as all mankind
Exalted when Christ was born.
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For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11*

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"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
"And never brought to mind,
"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
"And days of auld lang syne!"

Fittingly, the most traditional of all New Year's tunes, Robbie Burns' immortal anthem, hails from Scotland, the land where seeing the Old Year out and welcoming the New Year in has been serious business for hundreds of years.

But, while virtually every person in the English-speaking world has undoubtedly hummed a bar of Robbie Burns' New Year's melody on at least one occasion, very few people know of the many and varied New Year's customs that have originated in his homeland.

Some of these have their origins in folk traditions; still others date from the Reformation, when the devout Scots, taking a clerical rebuke to heart, chose to observe Christmas Eve and Day with all due solemnity, transferring the merriment to the less sacred occasion of New Year's Eve and Day (so much so that many Scots refer to them as "Daft Days").

Known as Hogmanay, New Year's Eve was treated in Scotland as an important opportunity for making sure that fortune smiled on you in the year to come.

Good luck was ensured in a variety of ways. In many communities, it was customary to light bonfires to burn the Old Year out prior to the beginning of the New Year. In some coastal towns, an old fishing boat was set on fire; its embers were considered to bring good luck, causing those present at the ceremony to compete for them.

Children had an important role to play in the Hogmanay festivities. Throughout Scotland, groups of local youngsters would wrap themselves up together in a large sheet, then parade through town, crying out a traditional rhyme: "Get up, goodwife, and shake your feathers, / And dinna think that we are beggars; / For we are bairns come out to play, / Get up and gie's our hogmanay." For their efforts, they would be given cheese or oaten cakes, also called hogmanay.

On New Year's Day, in some places, the boys would hit the streets again, asking at each house for food or money, by singing the following song: I wish you a Merry Christmas / And a Happy New Year, / A pocketful of money / And a cellar full of beer, / And a good fat pig / To serve you all the year. / Ladies and gentlemen / Sitting by the fire, / Pity us poor boys / Out in the mire."

Truly, New Year's Eve was a bustling occasion in most Scottish households, as everyone in the home strove to complete the Old Year's business before midnight, returning all borrowed objects, paying all debts, winding clocks, sweeping out all the old dust, and so on. In addition, the householders would search for stray dogs on their property and evict them, as they were believed to bring bad luck.

Similarly, it was believed to be lucky to wear a new garment on New Year's Day, and it was an especially good omen if its pockets were filled with money, as this could indicate a prosperous year to come.

A DESCENDANT OF THE OATEN BANNOCK that was an intrinsic part of pagan Yuletide celebrations, Scottish shortbread is the traditional New Year's and Christmas treat. Its circular form, as seen above in Christopher Baker's photo from *Martha Stewart's Christmas* (Clarkson N. Potter), is meant to mirror that of the sun.

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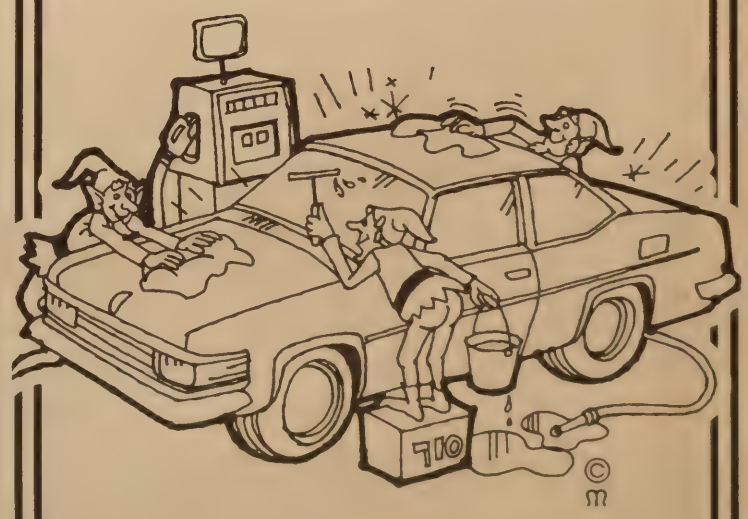

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A STEAMING KETTLE of Chestnut, Herb and Sausage Soup, bottom, makes a delicious and satisfying holiday dish. Both recipe and illustration are from *The Joy of Christmas* (Barron's Educational Series, Inc.), by Helen Feingold and Mary Lee Grisanti.

Recipes with chestnuts add flavor to the holiday season

You know that Christmas is just around the corner when the chestnut vendors come out. Setting up shop in places as diverse as New York's Fifth Avenue, Lisbon's Black Horse Square and Rome's Spanish Steps, these roving merchants are as true a harbinger of cold weather and holiday merriment as the first evergreen garlands strung in store windows, or the first signs reminding browsers how many shopping days are left till Christmas.

In fact, the heady fragrance of chestnuts roasting on an open fire, the smoke from the braziers, drifting lazily into a twilit sky, perhaps, to contrast sharply with the autumnal chill in the air, are an invitation to begin dreaming of the joys of the most joyous of seasons.

It simply wouldn't be Christmastime without little paper bags or crumpled newspapers filled with dark-roasted chestnuts, their shells split crosswise, their butter-colored flesh slightly charred, adding savor to their characteristic mealy sweetness.

But, chestnuts aren't simply for eating out of hand, while strolling lazily through a city decked out in its holiday finery. Rather, these flavorful delicacies are traditional components of festive meals, incorporated into stuffings for goose or turkey, roasted as a vegetable, or as *marrons glacés*, candied chestnuts, the most characteristic of French Noel sweets.

If you'd like to add a chestnut dish to your holiday repertoire, the recipe below will get you started.

Reproduced from *The Joy of Christmas* (Barron's Educational Series, Inc.), by Helen Feingold and Mary Lee Grisanti, Chestnut, Herb and Sausage Soup is warming and hearty. It would be a perfect starter for winter dinner or, accompanied by crusty bread fresh from the oven, could serve as a main-dish soup at lunchtime.

CHESTNUT, HERB AND SAUSAGE SOUP
Makes 8 Servings

- **1 pound chestnuts**
- **1 cup chopped carrots**
- **1 cup chopped celery**
- **1 cup chopped onion**
- **8 ounces bulk sausage, crumbled**
- **5 cups (or more) chicken broth**
- **½ teaspoon each dried thyme and rosemary**
- **3 egg yolks**
- **1 cup (½ pint) heavy cream**
- **Salt and pepper**
- **Fresh herb sprigs (optional garnish)**

1. Slash one side of the chestnuts and strip off the shell. Place in a saucepan and cover with water. Cover and simmer for 40 to 45 minutes or until easily pierced. Cool chestnuts in water. Remove them one at a time and strip off the thin brown skin. Place peeled chestnuts in a food processor and puree.

2. In a 3-quart saucepan, combine carrots, celery, onion and sausage. Sauté for about 15 minutes, or until sausage is brown and crumbly. Drain excess fat.

3. Add chestnut puree, five cups chicken broth and herbs. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

4. Beat egg yolks with cream in a small bowl. Gradually stir this mixture into the hot soup; reheat but do not boil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. If soup is too thick, thin it it with additional chicken broth. Serve topped with a small herb sprig, if available.

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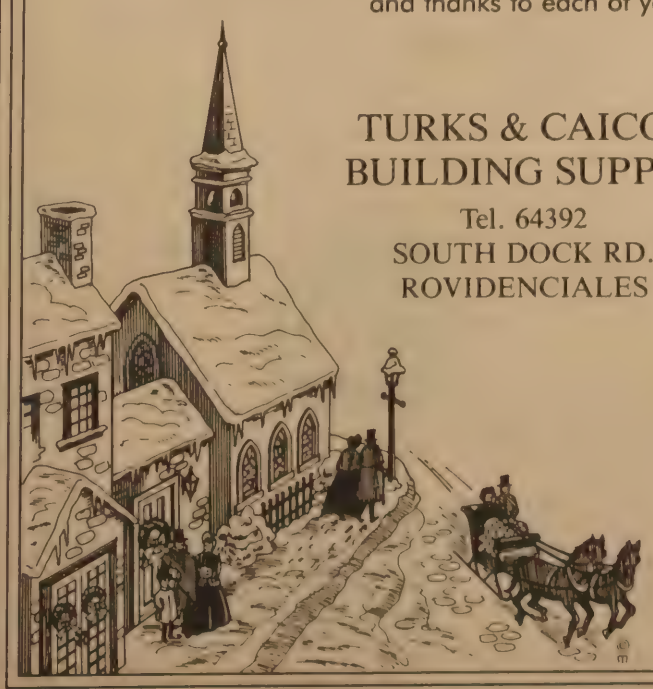

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Christmas in de olden days

Archie Morley, 75, of Five Cays, remembers what Christmas was like when he was a boy.

THE TURKS & CAICOS Islands have undergone great changes in the past quarter century, and Providenciales displays many of those changes today. Food, transportation, employment, even the population itself has changed greatly on Provo during the past 25 years, and the celebration of Christmas is no exception.

The Turks & Caicos News was fortunate to learn something about "the old days" in the Turks & Caicos Islands from two native Provoites who have lived on this island for over three quarters of a century: Mr. Charles Rigby, 85, of Blue Hills, and Mr. Archie Morley, 75, of Five Cays.

"When I was a young boy," Mr. Rigby said, "we had a lot of fun around here at Christmastime. We had a lot of old folks going from house to house, a lot of music and dancing moving from house to house serenading, singing Christmas carols... And there were drums... box drums with goatskins and rip saws. I always looked forward to the serenading the night before Christmas."

Mr. Rigby said the children did not join in the caroling, "just watched and enjoyed."

His mother had a big building near the place where Rigby's Variety Store now stands, he said, and twice a year, on August 1 and at Christmastime, she would put flags on top of the building, and that meant "party time tonight!"

"Then people would come, and there would be singing and dancing and cakes," Mr. Rigby said, explaining that his mother was a baker and baked cakes for sale. "What we didn't sell, we gave away," he added.

Before Christmas, Mr. Rigby's father would sail to Haiti, and sometimes little Charley got to go with him.

"We would get our conch and go to Haiti," Mr. Rigby said. "We came back with mangoes and cane-syrup. My father take me sometimes. After I a grown man, I build my own boat and go places."

Charley's mother would make a dark cake called "gingerbread" with the cane syrup. The mangoes, he added with a big grin, "we just ate."

The late Clement Howell's father had a store in Blue Hills then, Mr. Rigby said, and what they didn't get in Haiti they bought at Mr. Howell's store.

When asked what the people did on Christmas Day, his eyes lighted up.

"That's the biggest and the best time," he said, "on Christmas Day. In the morning, everyone would go to church."

"Did you exchange gifts within the family?" the News asked.

He shook his head "no."

"Did the children receive toys on Christmas?"

Mr. Rigby, who seemed somewhat surprised at our question, answered simply, "Children didn't have toys in those days."

But they did have good things to eat on Christmas Day.

"We raised chickens," he said, "and we would have fried chicken for Christmas Dinner. Or we would kill a pig — yes, there were pigs here then, too — and make a lot of souse."

To make souse, Mr. Rigby explained, they cut up the meat of the pig — the meat, the head, the feet

Taxi business hurt

• *Continued from page 1*

to discuss the new taxi regulations. "After that meeting we thought we had won the war. But we only won a battle. The war is continuing to rage. And it's getting worse," said taxi driver Gloria Symonette.

Nelson Musgrove told the News that after they resolved the GWV conflict --a situation where the U.S. tour company wanted to contract the moving of all its guests here to the local bus company-- the bus operators said they would back off. "But there still seems to be some secret deal with the hotels to pick up guests from the airport and provide shuttle service between the hotels and cassino"

"I believe it's a planned thing," said Lew Clare. "And it's coming from the Government. They are trying to strangle the taxi drivers. The reason they are bringing in so many small vans and more big busses is because they plan to take the business over." he said.

The taxi drivers said: "Some days we can only sit and watch the busses take loads and loads of people from the airport, while we have nothing to do.

They are making it very difficult for us. This is unfair. We have thirty-two people out there on the taxi line trying to make a living, we have families and bills to pay, too", they told the Turks & Caicos News.

Gloria Symonette explained that they are not looking for the Club Med business. She said they understand and accept that arrangement with the bus company. "But on other days we don't need the busses at the airport. We are capable of handling every other passenger who wants to get to a hotel," she said.

Asked is they ever brought the situation to the attentation of the Government, the taxi drivers said they held discussions with the Chief Minister, the Minister for Transportation and the Director of Tourism, but nobody them any satisfaction.

"The Chief Minister is a man who seems insensitive to things..." said Lew Clare. "He doesn't care. He said so. He said he doesn't have the time to sit down and listen to us run-on ignorance. That's why we have come to the paper, to bring it to the attention of the people, so we can get their support. Because something needs to be done."

The taxi drivers say they are warning Government that if somebody doesn't step in and do something to help them, there's going to be "some serious problems out there on the taxi line."

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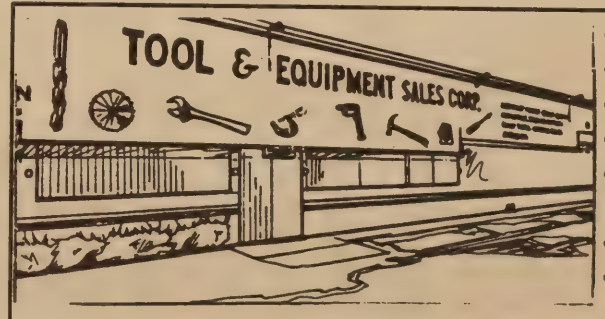

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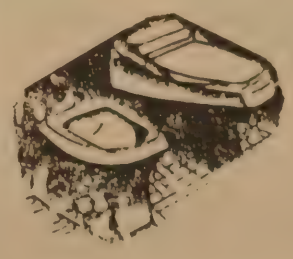

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Christmas in de olden days

• Continued from page 23

— and put limes and other things into it and made a sort of stew.

"Everyone liked that," he added.

"My mother was a baker," he said. "She made the cakes: sweet cakes, gingerbread, sweet buns, and 'benny' cakes. We would have our special dinner either on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve night."

And on Christmas Day there was music and dancing. "So much music and dancing," Mr. Rigby remembered. "There was no real road here, just sand. But there were drums. And the people would come and dance and sing all the way down to Wheeland and back. And as they passed a house, the people would come out of the house and join in the dancing and singing.

"We had a Maypole, too," he added, and chuckled. "Sometimes someone would make a mistake and everybody would get all tangled up."

Mr. Rigby, spry and cheerful at the age of 85, still lives in the house where he was born. His first two wives died childless, but he is still married to his third wife, Oseta, who is younger than he, and they have three children, two in the United States and one here, and "about nine grandchildren." One of those grandchildren is Miss Barbara Johnson, the current Miss Turks & Caicos Islands.

"The new generation doesn't have fun like in the old days," Mr. Rigby mused. "Now they go to the hotels for fun."

Mr. Rigby himself is no stranger to hotels on Provo, having served as caretaker of the island's very first hotel, the Third Turtle Inn, for approximately 15 years.

"But when I was young, there were no hotels," he said. "We had to make our own fun.

"Oh, it was lovely in those days," he added, with a gentle smile. "Lovely, lovely."

Mr. Archie Morley, 75, a Five Cays fisherman who has lived all his life on the property where he was born, does not remember "the old days" with quite as much fondness as his Blue Hills contemporary.

"The farm and the boat," he said. "That's all we had to live by in those days."

Mr. Morley said he had farmed potatoes, sugar cane, paw paws, peas and bananas.

"Farming was hard," he admitted, "but we had more rain then. Lots more rain. And lots more mosquitoes, too!"

This year, he reported, there are not so many mosquitoes.

"Used to be," he said, "the pond would be full of wig-wags (mosquito larvae), but now you don't see any wig-wags. Maybe that's why there aren't so many mosquitoes this year."

Reduction of the mosquito population on Provo is just one of many changes in the Islands that Mr. Morley considers for the better.

"Times are better now," he said. "In the old days, we had to wait for a big boat to come to Grand Turk from Jamaica with food. Then we had to sail to Grand Turk to get food to bring back here. Sometimes it was two or three weeks before we could get back. A week in summer, maybe, but in winter we had to stay in South Caicos for a while because there was so much wind and the water was very rough.

"And when you did finally get back with the food," he added, "you still had to carry it on your head from the boat up to your house."

There was no road for cars or carts here when he was young, Mr. Morley explained, but some people did have donkeys or a horse.

"Now you can get food right here," he added, "so it's a lot better."

Back in the old days, Mr. Morley told us, the bush on Provo was so high it was up over your head.

"The first airport on Providenciales was made by hand," Mr. Morley added. "I helped build that airport. We had to cut the bush with cutlasses."

Then people began to come in and bring dozers and other equipment, and then investors began to come, and since then there have been great changes.

Charles Rigby, 85, of Blue Hills, says "we had a lot of fun around here at Christmastime"

"Cars began to come," Mr. Morley said. "I had a car. A Chrysler. There must have been only about four cars here before I had one. I used to pick up the boys in Blue Hills and take them to their boats in my car. And when the fishermen got home, they would call up Butler — that's my nickname: Butler. 'If you need service, just call Butler.' You can write that down — and I would take them home in my car.

"Right now I'm almost feared to drive though, the way people drive here now," he added. "I just walk, and people who know you pick you up, and some people who know you just pass. But some people drive so wild and fast, I'd rather be on the safe side."

As for fishing, that's much easier these days, too, Mr. Morley said.

"Used to be when you went out fishing in a sailboat, you were supposed to go for the week. And if there was no breeze, you'd perish at sea. But now I have a power boat. You go out in the morning knowing you'll be back that same evening. Yes, I like the power boat better."

Despite his memories of how hard everything was for people here in the old days, Archie's eyes light up when he talks about the holiday season.

"It started off with a bonfire the first of November," he related. The three settlements (Blue Hills, Five Cays, and The Bight) would meet and have a big bonfire.

• Continued on page 26

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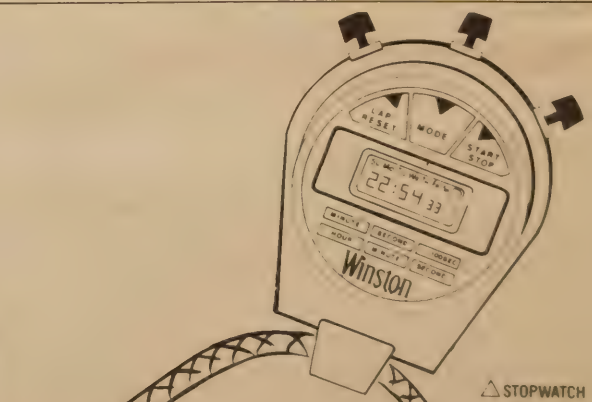

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Festive fare for the heart

THE HOLIDAY SEASON has traditionally been a time of festivities featuring good friends, good fun, and good food. But times are changing and our knowledge is growing. What we once thought of as 'good' food we now know often is not. Not to say that Grandma's famous Karo pecan pie with whipped cream or Aunt Lucy's green bean casserole with cheese sauce topped with fried onion rings aren't as delicious as ever, it's just that medical scientists and nutritionists are now warning us that the fats contained in these foods may be endangering our health.

While there is still some disagreement among members of the medical community as to just what, exactly, is the proper diet (and this certainly general health would vary somewhat depending on the age and sex, of the individual), authorities generally agree that a basically healthful diet contains relatively little fat (especially saturated fat) and a high percentage of complex, or minimally processed, carbohydrates. Fresh fruits and vegetables come highly recommended, while salt and simple sugars should be kept to a minimum and proteins should be eaten in moderation.

While we have been aware for decades, perhaps, that certain delectables as chocolate fudge are best eaten only on rare occasion, it is only in recent years that we have come to realize that it is not so much the sugar as the fat that is our real enemy: better a tablespoon of honey than a tablespoon of margarine.

So along with the sweets and rich sauces we now feel obliged to try, get along without cheese, nuts, peanut butter and even vegetable oil. This is hard enough in the most mundane of times, but at Christmas? Impossible!

Fortunately, those of us with no major health problems feel that we can still splurge a little once in a great while, but we don't want to overdo it even then. So to help you out this holiday season we offer two menus featuring low-fat recipes gleaned from the 1990 cookbook For Goodness' Sake: An Eating Well Guide to Creative Low-Fat Cooking by Terry Joyce Blonder, published by Camden House Publishing, Inc.

MENU I

Turkey and Trimmings
Curried Squash Soup
Stuffed Turkey
Fast and Fresh Cranberry Relish
Carrot and Mint Salad
Green Beans
Corn Bread
Pumpkin pie

The roast turkey and stuffing, or dressing, are not likely to be low fat. However, if you are serious about not eating fat, you should eat only the white breast meat of the turkey and remove all skin first. As for the stuffing, try sticking to a basic bread stuffing with no nuts or sausage and cut down on the butter or margarine by sauteing any cooked vegetables in apple juice, white wine or sherry before using in the stuffing. Steam the green beans or simmer them in water with a little red wine vinegar and freshly ground pepper added to taste while cooking. Do not overcook.

Except for corn bread low-fat recipes are given for the other dishes, which are intended to serve eight people. If you have a larger gathering, just double the recipes to serve 16 — and buy a bigger turkey!

CURRIED SQUASH SOUP
1 large butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into large chunks (about 2 1/2 to 3 pounds)
1 all-purpose potato, peeled and cut into cubes
1 tart apple, peeled cored, and quartered
1 leek, washed well and chopped
1 large clove garlic, peeled and crushed
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/4 ground cardamom
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric
2 teaspoons curry powder
2 teaspoons soy sauce
1/6 to 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
raisins and sliced apple for garnish
yogurt (optional)

1. Put the squash, potato, and apple into a pot, add enough water to cover by 1 inch, and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook, uncovered, until the squash is tender, about 20 minutes.

2. Sauté the leek, garlic, and ginger in the oil. Add to the boiled vegetables and stir in the spices and seasonings.

3. Puree mixture, then return to the pot. Simmer for 10 minutes longer.

4. Taste and adjust the seasonings; serve garnished with raisins and sliced apple. Pass yogurt on the side if desired.

FAST AND FRESH CRANBERRY RELISH
2 juice oranges
2 lemons
4 cups cranberries, sorted and rinsed
1 16-ounce can pineapple, packed in its own juices, drained
1 cup maple syrup

1. Peel the oranges and lemons, removing all the pith. Slice in half crosswise so the seeds can be removed easily.

2. Put the cranberries, pineapple, citrus, and maple syrup in a food processor fitted with metal blade. Pulse until the mixture is finely chopped but not pureed. (If you do not have a processor, use a blender or chop very finely by hand.)

3. If the relish is to be served raw, let it stand at least 1 hour before serving. Otherwise, put it in a saucepan and simmer gently for 5 minutes or until it just starts to thicken.

(NOTE: This recipe may serve 12, so it should serve 8 easily and leave you with some leftover for next day.)

CARROT AND MINT SALAD
6 slices red onion, minced (about

• Continued from page 27

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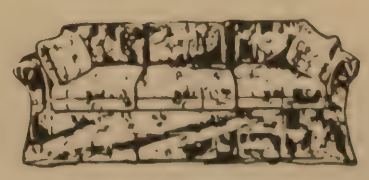
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Christmas in de olden days

• Continued from page 24

"This place was very bushy then," he explained, "and we would cut the leaf for the bonfire. People would catch the leaf on fire and switch it at you. You needed to be a fast runner not to get burned. But if you were a fast runner, people would gang up on you and corner you and you'd get burned anyway. Some men wore women's long dresses so they wouldn't get burned by people switching their ankles, and some women wore long pants on that night.

"You could wear whatever you wanted," he added with a grin, "But on that night, if you didn't want to get burned, you didn't go in the street."

Then, sometime before Christmas, they would take "so much conch" to Haiti and bring back cane syrup, mangoes, bananas, oranges, and potatoes.

"The Haitians didn't pay much money for conch," Mr. Morley said, "but they would 'change' it for produce."

In December, he said, "we would go to put on a masquerade face." This was part of the Christmas tradition.

"On Christmas Eve morning we would go to church," he said, "and Christmas Eve night everybody would gather at the church to sing. Then, on Christmas morning, we would go to a friend's house. Sometimes people would take cakes to friends. And sometimes, on Christmas Day, the family would gather for a special meal."

But apparently the most exciting part of Christmas for a little boy was the "Junkano" parade.

"We called it 'Junkanoo Morning,' " Mr. Morley recalled. "It was a big parade on Christmas Day and through Christmas Night, too. People from different settlements would come. They wore masks and cow horns, and there were drums and accordion music. People would give them money."

Finally came New Year's Eve night.

"Everyone would gather at the church and sing until midnight," Mr. Morley said. "Then, at around twelve midnight was 'Keep Watch Night.' Everyone stood by the church and offered silent prayer to bring in the New Year."

New Year's Day people went marching in the street.

"Friends would get together," Mr. Morley said, "and one would say, 'Happy New Year,' and the other would reply, 'Many happy returns. Hope you live to see many more,' nice things like that.

"After that, in January," he added with a long face, "it was back to slavery. Everyone had to go back to hard work.

"But I always worked for myself and had people work for me. In all my born days," Archie Morley added proudly, "I never had a boss."

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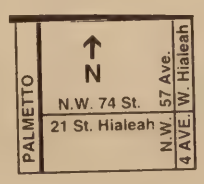

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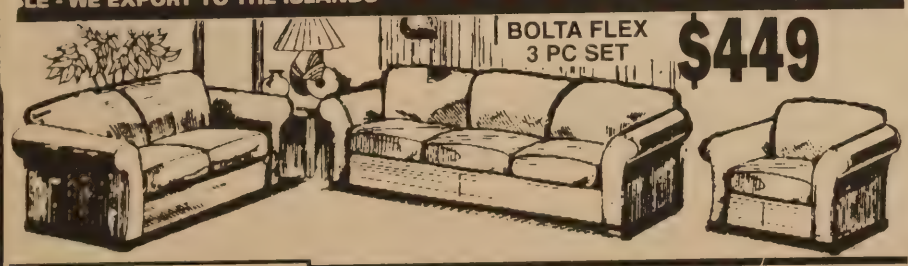

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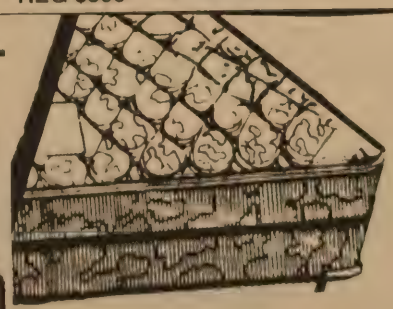

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Fare for the heart

3 tablespoons)
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
6 tablespoons water
3 tablespoons minced fresh mint
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 pound carrots, grated on largest hole
2 teaspoons corn oil

1. Combine the onion, vinegar, 2 tablespoons of the water, mint, salt, and lemon juice, blending well.

2. Sauté the carrots in the oil and remaining 4 tablespoons water until they just start to soften. Toss the dressing in with the hot carrots and serve immediately or chill.

(NOTE: Travels well and is ideal for picnics.)

PUMPKIN PIE
2 cups purred pumpkin, or 15-ounce can
3/4 cup purred cottage cheese
1/3 cup evaporated skim mild
1/3 cup maple syrup
1/2 cup malt syrup
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1/8 teaspoon allspice
1 1/2 tablespoons arrow root
2 egg whites, beaten to a soft peak
1 pie crust

1. Combine all but the egg whites and pie crust in a food processor fitted with metal blade. (Or use blender or fork.) Transfer to a bowl and fold in egg whites.

2. Place the single in a pie plate and pour in the batter.

3. Bake in a preheated 425 — degree-F oven for 15 minutes, then reduce to 350 degrees and bake for about 1 hour. The pie is done when a knife inserted into the center comes out clean.

(NOTE: This pie has all the flavor and texture of its richer cousin but none of the heavy fats and creams. If you're especially concerned about fats, bake the filling in custard dishes. Without the pie crust it has less than 1 gram of fat per serving. This pie can serve 12 people. For 16, you'll have to make 2.)

MENU II

ISLAND FISH DINNER
Potato-Leek Soup
Ginger and Lime Fish
All-Season Black Bean Salad
Fresh Green Salad with Honey-Mustard Dressing

This is an elegant, low-fat meal intended to serve six people. Use whatever fresh vegetables you like in a salad (no nuts or cheese, please!) and serve with our delicious low-fat dressing. Recipes are given for all other dishes.

POTATO-LEEK SOUP
3 cups minced leeks, white and light green parts
4 cups peeled, shredded all-purpose potatoes
6 cups stock (vegetable or chicken)
1/2 to 1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley freshly ground pepper to taste (use white pepper if appear is especially important)
1/2 cup fromage blanc or low-fat yogurt (optional)

1. Make sure that the leeks are washed well before mincing them. Simmer the leeks, potatoes, stock, and salt in a pot for 30 minutes.

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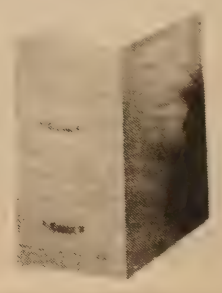
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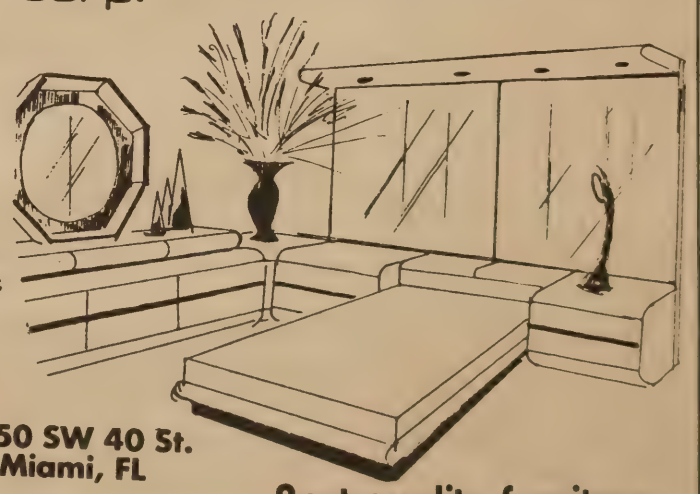
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Fare for the heart

Add the chives and parsley. Cook for 10 minutes longer.

2. Stir in the pepper (and dairy, if you like). Season to taste.

Serve immediately or chill and garnish with fresh parsley.

(NOTE: Peasant-style leek and potato soup and the aristocratic chilled vichyssoise are one and the same. Serve hot or cold as desired. This recipe can serve up to 10 people. If you wish to use small servings, you may halve recipe to serve 6.)

GINGER AND LIME FISH

1 1/2 pounds thick fish fillet
3 teaspoons minced fresh ginger
1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
4 1/2 limes, juiced (about 3/8 to 1/2 cup)
3 tablespoons water (if necessary)
Lime slices for garnish

1. Place the fillet skin side down in a baking dish.

2. Combine the ginger, soy sauce, and lime juice. Pour over the fish. Add water if there isn't 1/4 inch of liquid covering the bottom of the pan. (If time permits, marinate for 30 minutes before cooking.)

3. Bake in a preheated 375 — degree—F oven for 20 to 25 minutes, or until fish flakes easily.

4. Serve garnished with lime slices.

ALL-SEASON BLACK BEAN SALAD

3 cups cooked black beans
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
1/4 red onion, chopped
2 scallions, sliced (use as much of the green tops as are crisp)
1 rib celery, finely chopped
1 orange
1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon olive oil (extra virgin is best)
1 1/2 tablespoons orange juice
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground coriander

1. In a large bowl, combine the first 6 ingredients, tossing well.

2. Cut the orange in half and scoop out the segments, as you would with a grapefruit. Add the segments to the bean mixture and squeeze the juice from the orange into the bowl. Take care not to drop in any seeds.

3. Whisk together (or shake in a glass jar) the remaining ingredients, pour over the salad and toss to coat.

HONEY-MUSTARD DRESSING

1/2 cup red wine vinaigrette (recipe included)
1/2 cup spicy brown mustard
1/2 cup honey

1. Make red wine vinaigrette.

2. Add equal amounts mustard and honey to vinaigrette and shake to mix well. Refrigerate until ready to use.

RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon red wine
2 tablespoons olive oil (extra virgin is best)
1 teaspoon water
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon dijon mustard
1 teaspoon dried basil
1 small clove garlic, finely minced
1 slice of onion, minced, or 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

Whisk all ingredients together in a bowl, or combine in a glass jar, cover, and shake well. Yields 1/4 cup,. or 8 1-tablespoon servings.

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Hundreds gathered for tree lighting ceremony

SEVERAL HUNDRED people gathered into the downtown area around the ball park for the festive annual lighting ceremony Wednesday night December 18. The programme, sponsored jointly by the Soroptimists, Kiwanis Club and the Provo Chamber of Commerce climaxed two weeks of School and Community Christmas celebrations around the Island.

This little toddler, caught up in the festive mood, claps excitedly as the lights of the Christmas tree are turned on.

There was something for every body in the programme featuring the Royal Turks and Caicos Police Band which got the programme started with a selection of carols. Mrs. Ellen Howell welcomed the crowd on behalf of the Soroptimists and following a prayer she introduced Mr. Harry Francis, Chairman of the evening's activities. Mr. Francis in turn presented Assistant Chief Secretary Mr. Mark Capes who greeted the crowd and presented a brief report in which, among other things, he defended Provo's community spirit.

Following the remarks by Mr. Capes the crowd heard from the Honorable Hilly Ewing who brought Christmas greetings and spoke of the changes in family life with the change of womens roles in society.

Greetings were also presented by Local Pastors, heads of Schools, the Chamber of Commerce, Girls Guide Organization, Women Aglow, the Secretaries Association and the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Francis then led the Kiwanis Club Choir in a Medley of Carols.

The message of the evening was presented by Pastor Leslie Myers. Following his address Miss Turks and Caicos threw the switch and some five hundred lights sparkled to life on the eighteen foot tree as the crowd sang Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Francis McKenzie thanked all of those who worked to make the occasion possible and The Royal Turks and Caicos Police Band who began the programme play again as candy and fruit was circulated to the children and elderly before the crowd broke up and headed for home.

The tree lighting ceremony held at the Ball Park on Provo last Wednesday was the result of the combined efforts of three civic organisations in Provo. In photo, representatives of the various organisations pose with Miss Turks & Caicos after the ceremony. From left to right are: Tom Smith of the Chamber of Commerce, Miss Turks & Caicos, Mike Taylor of the Kiwanis Club and Mrs. Eva Hamilton of the Soroptimists.

Royal Turks & Caicos Police Band, playing at the tree lighting ceremony

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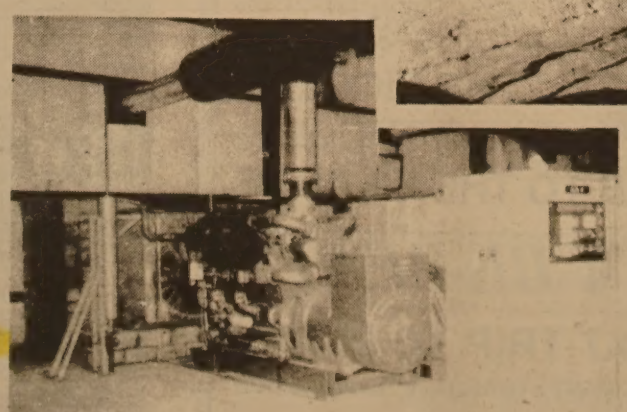

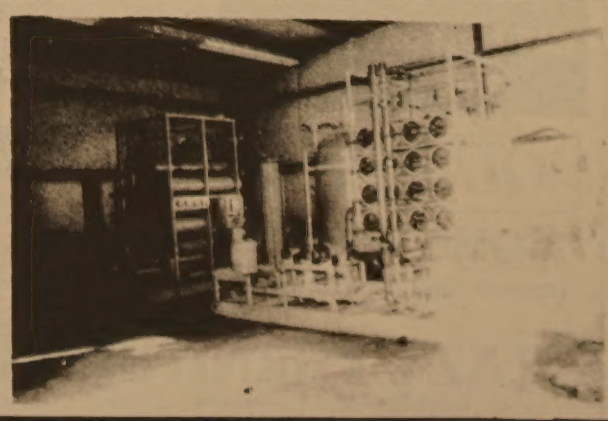

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Dignitaries at the tree lighting ceremony included (left to right) the Hon. Lewis Astwood, Hon. Hilly Ewing and Deputy Chief Secretary Mark Capes

Pastor Leslie Myers delivering message at the tree lighting ceremony

Kiwanians, under the direction of Mr. Harry Francis, entertained the audience with selections of Christmas carols.

Cross section of the huge crowd which gathered at the tree lighting ceremony

Kids in front row at the ceremony enjoy the robust selections by the Police band

This beautiful Christmas tree, provided by the Tourist Board, adorns the jib at the entrance of Lighthouse Road, Grand Turk

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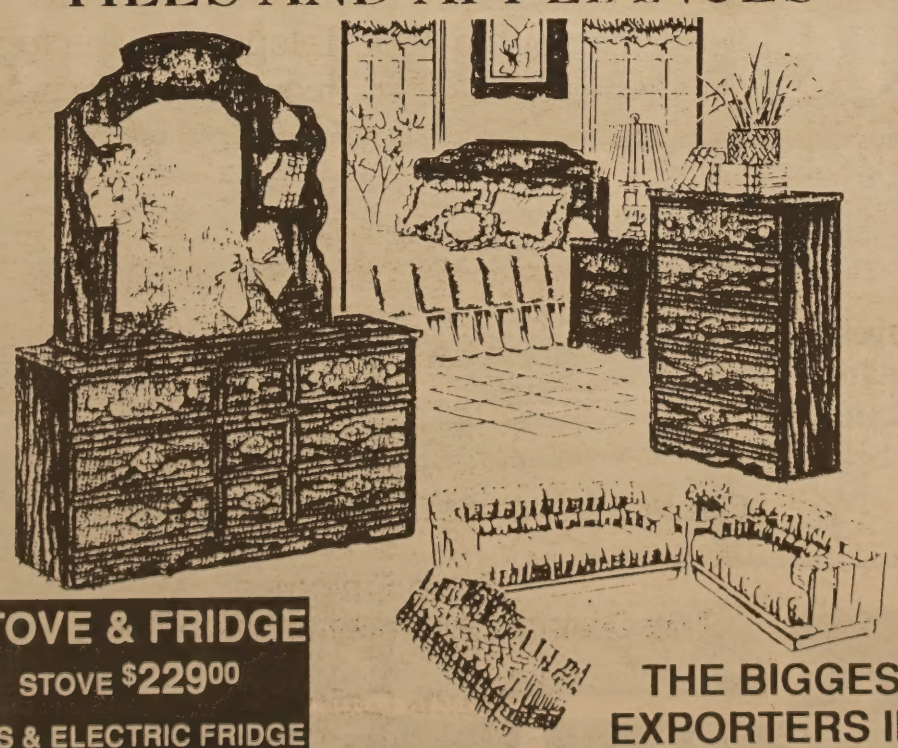

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Tender are invited from companies with a relevant business licence for the supply of fencing for the above project.
A schedule and other information can be obtained from Public Works Department, South Base, Grand Turks.
Tenders must include for the supply in accordance with the schedule which should be completed, and carriage, insuranmce and freight (CIF) to Grand Turk.
Tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly market "Port Fencing" to the
Chairman of the Tenders Board,
Financial Secretary's Office,
South Base, Grand Turk.

To arrive not later than 12 Noon on Friday 13th December 1991
Chief Engineer

OCEAN SEAFOOD LTD.

FRONT STREET, GRAND TURK
TELEPHONE 62815
LESLIE WILLIAMS, Manager
GRAND TURKS ONLY FISH PROCESSING FACTORY
Offering daily catch of
• RED SNAPPER • GRUPER
• CRAWFISH • CONCH

EXPORT LICENCE

Facilities for storage, packaging and export to any place in the world

Dive Provo
Administrative Assistant

THIS POSITION REQUIRES:
- MS DOS WORD PROCESSING
- COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF RETAIL BUYING WITH THREE YEARS OF PROVEN EXPERIENCE
- ABILITY TO PROJECT SALES
- EXPERIENCE IN INVENTORY CONTROL
- ABILITY TO TRAIN STAFF
- CERTIFIED DIVER PREFERRED

SUBMIT RESUME TO:
DAVID McLAREN, GENERAL MANAGER
DIVE PROVO
BOX 350
PROVIDENCIALES

BRITISH-AMERICAN INSURANCE CO. LTD.

proudly announces the appointment of Mr. COSMO Kerr, as the Unit Manager for their Providenciales Office with Agents

Aldora Robinson
Denise COX

Please contact ONLY the above with regards to any business whatsoever for the above named Company.

E.A. Brooks
Sales Manager

1992
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Cable & wireless are pleased to announce the distribution of the 1992 Telephone Directory. Each customer is entitled to one free directory which may be collected as follows: -

Grand Turk
Cable & Wireless Office, Grand Turk

Salt Cay
The District Commissioners's Office

Providenciales
Cable & Wireless Office, Providenciales

North Caicos
The District Commissioners's Office

South Caicos
Cable & Wireless/Barclays Office South Caicos

Middle Caicos
The District Commissioners's Office

Pine Cay
Cable & Wireless Office, Providenciales

Parrot Cay
Cable & Wireless Office, Providenciales

Cable & Wireless Helping the Turks and Caicos Islands Communicate

Quality SUPERMARKET

Leaward Highway, Providenciales, Turk & Caicos Islands
Telephone 809-946-64600 • Fax 809-94-64644

Reg.	Items	Price
1.09	ONIONS, per lb.	85¢
	24.oz.	3.66
3.55	18 oz.	3.05
2.65	12 oz.	2.36
	QUAKER QUICK GRITS	
1.25	24 Oz.	1.07
2.39	40 Oz.	1.82
3.60	5 lb.	2.90
	REGULAR QUICK GRITS	
3.77	5 lb.	2.78
20.40	HUGGIES, 40 pak Med. him/her	17.39

SPECIAL PRICE
Mahatma
20 lb.
10.50

No.1

THE No.1 Market In Providenciales

No. 1 In Convinience
No. 1 In Location
No. 1 In Fair Prices
No. 1 In Quality
No. 1 In Reducing The Cost Of Living

"We are changing the way people do business in Provo"

SPECIAL PRICE
Libby's Corned Beef Hash
15.5 oz.
1.70

Reg.	Items	Price
2.50	Five Roses, 5 1/2	2.40
22.50	Bail	21.00
	ROBBINHOOD FLOUR	
2.75	5 Lb.	2.25
24.75	Bail	18.00
	PINE SOL	
2.62	15 oz.	2.26
4.69	28 oz.	4.02
	CLOROX BLEACH	
5.22	1- 1/2 Galon	4.60
3.45	1 gal	3.10
2.39	1/2 gal	2.09
1.51	32 oz.	1.34
	DOWNY	
1.95	17oz.	1.69
3.25	32 oz.	2.85
97¢	TURKEY WINGS	79¢
6.70	5 lb. Chicken Wings	5.55

In Appreciation of our valued customers. The following items will be on special for the entire month of December.

- RICELAND 20lb. Bag $8,50
- DARLING DIAPERS, Large and Medium $11.99
- CARNATION CREAM (60 oz. and 14-5 oz.) $14.95
- SUNLIGHT PURE VEGETABLE OIL 2.5 Gals. $12.99

Merry Christmas